



OPASTCO

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Suite 700
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October 1, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Ex Parte Notice

**RE: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service
CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Ms. Dortch,

On Wednesday, October 1, 2003, representatives of the Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies (OPASTCO) met with staff of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service. Representing OPASTCO were Glenn Brown of McLean & Brown, John Duda of Fairpoint Communications, Roger Nishi of Waitsfield & Champlain Valley Telecom (by phone), John Rose of OPASTCO, and Stuart Polikoff of OPASTCO. Representing the federal staff of the Joint Board were William Scher, Vickie Byrd, Paul Garnett, and Elisabeth Yockus. Representing the state staff of the Joint Board were Greg Fogleman of the Florida Public Service Commission, Joel Schiffman of the Maine Public Utilities Commission, Larry Stevens of the Iowa Utilities Board, and Peter Bluhm of the Vermont Public Service Board. All of the state staff members participated by telephone. Our discussion focused on OPASTCO's views regarding a primary line limitation on high-cost universal service support. We provided the Joint Board staff with a written ex parte presentation, which is attached.

In accordance with FCC rules, this letter is being filed electronically in the above-captioned docket.

Sincerely,

Stuart Polikoff
Director of Government Relations
OPASTCO